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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 40 OCTOBER 23, 2006

INSIDE

Washington meeting promotes campaign to free Cuban Five

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15,000 strike at Goodyear plants in U.S. and Canada

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

TYLER, Texas—Some 15,000 workers began a strike October 5 against Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., the largest U.S. tire manufacturer, at plants in 12 cities in the United States and four in Canada.

Workers picketing the Goodyear plant here October 7 were eager to explain their strike. Nearly 1,000 members of the United Steelworkers union are employed here.

"This company wants to cut our wages and do away with retiree medical benefits," said Bobby Womack, a tire builder with 38 years in the plant. "We had no choice. We had to strike." Womack is a veteran of strikes here in 1971 and 1976.

"They are talking about closing this plant," said Rodney Smiley, a tire builder with 11 years' service. "After what we gave up last time, we can't afford to let this go without a fight."

In 2003, Goodyear threatened bankruptcy to force through union concessions. The United Steelworkers did not go on strike and agreed to the closure of a plant in Huntsville, Alabama, as well as wage, pension, and health-care cuts.

Today the company, arguing it must offset competition from rivals abroad, is pressing to make further wage and

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U.S. hands off N. Korea!

No to sanctions, acts of piracy! Withdraw all U.S. troops and weapons!

The following statement by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party was released October 11 by the party's national secretary, Jack Barnes.

STATEMENT BY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people in the United States and throughout the world to oppose the rapidly accelerating threats against north Korea by the U.S. rulers and their "coalition of the willing," a coalition stretching from Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing, to Moscow and capitals across Europe. The U.S. government and its allies are already tightening sanctions against north Korea and choking off its access to credit and currency. They are pressing the United Nations Security Council to legitimize boarding north Korean ships to "inspect" and "interdict" imports and exports and lay the basis for military action. [See news article on page 6]

With some 10,000 weapons in its nuclear arsenal and nuclear-armed warships in the Pacific, it is Washington that poses the threat of nuclear annihilation to the people of Asia and the world. It is the U.S. government, not the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), that has entered the

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Reuters/Lee Jin-Man

F-18 Super Hornet fighter jets fill deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* March 30 during U.S. military exercises in south Korean waters near city of Ulsan.

Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialists leaders:

Support reunification of Korea!

The following message was sent October 10 to Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Olympia Newton on behalf of the Young Socialists.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the sixty-first anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. We affirm our commitment to the Korean people's fight for national

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SWP candidates in California protest U.S. threats against north Korea

BY LEA SHERMAN

LOS ANGELES, October 11— "The Socialist Workers campaign says no to all sanctions against north Korea," said Naomi Craine, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in California's 34th District. "We say, 'Pull all U.S. forces and weapons out of the Korean peninsula!'"

Socialist campaigners here are taking this message to working people in response to stepped-up U.S. threats against north Korea.

In an afternoon of campaigning October 7, working people signed petitions to put Craine on the ballot as an official write-in candidate. Campaign supporters easily surpassed the required number of 40 signatures.

That evening, at a "Meet the Socialist Workers Party Candidates" forum, Craine described some of the responses socialists got in Maywood, a working-class suburb.

"A woman who worked as a cleaner and

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2,000 in Illinois town protest anti-immigrant ordinance

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

CARPENTERSVILLE, Illinois—More than 2,000 people, mostly workers, demonstrated October 3 in front of the building where this town's Village Board was meeting to discuss a proposed anti-immigrant ordinance.

The proposed measure would deny a business permit to employers who hire undocumented immigrants and fine landlords $1,000 for renting apartments to those without residence papers. It would also make English the official language for city affairs. More than 40 percent of the 37,000 residents of Carpentersville, a town northwest of Chicago, are Latino. Around the country, 41 towns and cities have passed or are considering similar ordinances.

A few supporters of the ordinance also showed up. Paul Humpfer, co-author of the ordinance, told the press, "We need this because there is an inability to col-

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Venezuelan peasants fight for land, face resistance by big landowners

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND RÓGER CALERO

EL CHARCOTE RANCH, Venezuela, October 7—"The English company's cattle, which used to destroy our crops, and the company's hit men are gone," said Ferboss Quintero, a peasant who works a plot of land at this former cattle ranch.

"We had a better year in production," he said, pointing to trees full of papayas, and thriving crops of corn, peppers, and yucca. "But none of us have land titles as of now. We haven't seen a penny of the promised credits. We have yet to get electricity. And the only drinking water available is what we pump by hand from the wells we drilled."

Ferboss and Ana Julia Quintero farm 37 acres at the northern edge of El Charcote, a 32,000-acre ranch in the Rómulo Gallegos municipality, about 10 miles

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No to U.S. drive to war: Sell 'Militant' subs!

Letter from the editor

Dear Reader,

We urge you to join *Militant* distributors in the United States and other countries in a special sales effort October 14–22 to get this issue around widely, sign up as many new subscribers as possible, and convince readers whose subscriptions have lapsed to renew.

This is a necessary response to the threats and warmongering moves by Washington, Tokyo, and their allies against north Korea. The coverage in this issue sheds light on what's at stake for working people and answers the big-business propaganda

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U.S. officials: Venezuela 'destabilizes' region

Caracas: weapons are for defense, our sovereign right

BY RÓGER CALERO

CARACAS, Venezuela—At a meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, of defense ministers from more than 30 countries in the hemisphere, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials targeted the Venezuelan government, headed by President Hugo Chávez, for criticism.

At the October 2–4 gathering, Rumsfeld accused the Chávez administration of becoming a "destabilizing force" in the region and that other governments in the region shared his "concern."

Gen. Bantz Craddock, commander of the U.S. military for Latin America, condemned Caracas for the "increase in Venezuela's purchase of weapons, especially small arms," the *New York Times* reported October 3.

Rumsfeld alleged that neighboring governments are "concerned that the weapons purchased by Venezuela will end up in the hands of terrorist groups," Nicaragua's daily *La Prensa* reported.

Chávez told the press here in the Venezuelan capital October 4 that the weapons over which Washington is making an issue are "eminently defensive" in character, and that their purchase is within the country's sovereign rights.

In recent months the government of Venezuela has bought military equipment and small weapons from Russia, including 24 fighter jets and 53 military helicopters, and signed a contract to buy 100,000 Kalashnikov AK-103 automatic rifles. As part of the deal, Moscow also agreed to build a factory in Venezuela to produce the bulk of these rifles.

The Chávez administration has sought new suppliers for the country's armed forces since Washington imposed a ban in May on arms sales. Until then, most of the weapons for the Venezuelan military came from the United States.

"We have replaced equipment that was more than 50 years old and made purchases to replace systems we can no longer use because they have been vetoed," said Venezuelan defense minister Raúl Baduel, according to the Venezuelan daily *El Nacional*.

"All of our purchases have been of a defensive character," said Baduel, speaking to Colombian radio stations October 4. While Venezuelan government officials hope a day will come when "swords can be turned into plowshares" he said, they know "it is also true, if you look at the world situation, there are countries that act as if they have the right to intervene anywhere in the world," alluding to Washington. Caracas also announced plans to purchase anti-aircraft missiles and long-range radars from China next year.

Germany: phone workers protest plant closure

Getty Images/Tom Niedermueller

Cell phone manufacturing workers demonstrate October 6 at the headquarters of Siemens in Munich, Germany. The workers, members of the IG Metall union, went on strike over the announcement that parent company BenQ would close its factory in Kamp-Lintfort, in North Rhine-Westphalia state. BenQ announced it would stop funding its German division just before it filed for bankruptcy protection September 29, and announced the layoff of 3,000 workers. Siemens, which retracted a 30 percent salary increase for bosses in face of workers' outrage, announced October 6 that it would pay laid-off workers while they retrained for new jobs. BenQ, Taiwan's biggest cell phone manufacturer, says it lost $762 million since taking over German operations of Siemens in October 2005. Unionists are planning sympathy strikes at other Siemens factories across Germany, and a rally at its headquarters October 19.

—OLYMPIA NEWTON

SWP National Committee: U.S. hands off N. Korea!

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fifth year of its war in Afghanistan and is nearing its fourth year of combat in Iraq.

And it is Washington and its allies who for half a decade, through the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative, have imposed their "right" to board ships and seize cargo—to carry out piracy on the high seas—against any country the imperialist rulers label a "rogue nation." Washington's demand for "inspection" of all cargo in or out of north Korea—a de facto naval blockade, an act of war by any standard—ups the ante on the danger of military strikes against the DPRK on land as well.

It is under this same banner of "nuclear nonproliferation" that Washington joins with its allies in Europe and Asia to seek to prevent semicolonial countries from developing the energy sources needed to expand electrification to develop modern industry, farming, and education and culture. The major capitalist powers arrogantly insist that they, *and only they*, will decide which governments can or cannot develop large-scale nuclear energy without being reliant on other nations for nuclear fuel. Today Korea is in imperialism's sights. Tomorrow, Iran. The next day it will be others.

Washington carves up Korea

In August 1945 Washington called attention to its new position as the world's dominant imperialist power by unleashing nuclear weapons—for the first and, so far, only time in history—against the people of Japan. Only weeks later, with the complicity of the Stalinist regime in Moscow and support from Stalinist parties around the globe, the U.S. rulers, in flagrant disregard for Korea's national sovereignty, carved the country in two. In the northern half the workers and farmers deepened the revolutionary mobilizations that had swept the entire peninsula at the end of World War II, carrying out a radical land reform, expropriating the capitalists and landlords, and establishing a workers state.

In 1950 Washington invaded north Korea under the United Nations flag in an effort to destroy the DPRK and deal blows to the unfolding revolution in China. Not only did the U.S. government threaten the use of nuclear weapons during the Korean War, it murderously flattened—*literally flat-*

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THE MILITANT

U.S. hands off Venezuela!

The 'Militant' provides first-hand coverage of how workers and peasants in Venezuela are resisting U.S. imperialism's threats and fighting to broaden the political space they have in their struggles for land, jobs, education, and social solidarity. Don't miss a single issue!

Peasants Dilia García and Angel Sarmiento, October 7, on land peasants won after occupation near San Carlos, Venezuela.

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Fight for land in Venezuela

Continued from front page

south of San Carlos, the capital of Cojedes, one of the country's top states in agricultural production.

The Quinteros are among 800 families that occupied much of the ranch for seven years and fought successfully to use the land. Until early 2005 the ranch was operated by Agroflora, known here as the "English company" because it was owned by the Vesteys, a British capitalist family. The Vestey Group owns 14 ranches spanning 865,000 acres in this country and has similar investments in Argentina and Brazil.

Last fall the national government headed by President Hugo Chávez intervened in the dispute after Cojedes governor Jhonny Yánez "tried and failed to evict us in order to salvage the interests of the landowners," said Santiago Anzola, a peasant who farms at Puertas Negras, at the entrance to El Charcote.

"Chávez came here, met with Agroflora, and then the government bought the ranch," Anzola said. "Now the land belongs to the state and Yánez can't evict us. But he and his landowner friends are not making our lives easy."

The challenges facing peasants here are similar to those they confront across the country. In 2001 the government adopted the Law on Land and Agricultural Development, which allowed peasants cultivating previously idle or unproductive lands to seek legal title. Since the law's approval, peasants have intensified their fight for land. In many cases, they have established their right to remain and continue producing, and sometimes have won land titles. But their efforts have often been frustrated by big farmers and ranchers and other landlords. To get their way, these capitalists have used the courts, hit squads, and support from bourgeois politicians, including a growing number, like Yánez, in the governing Fifth Republic Movement.

Nationwide trends

According to an April 25 press release by the Ministry of Agriculture, since 2001 "some 3 million hectares [1 hectare = 2.47 acres] have been rescued from large landowners but another 10 million hectares are yet to be recovered." The same source said food production nationwide increased from 7 million tons in 1999 to 19 million tons in 2005.

Government officials say land is "rescued," not expropriated, from landowners who obtained it illicitly, pointing out that the country's current constitution protects private property.

Land under cultivation in Venezuela increased from 1.7 million acres in 1998, when Chávez took office, to nearly 5 million today, José Agustín Campos, president of the National Ranchers and Farmers Federation (Confagan), told the press October 3. Confagan is a pro-government organization.

Despite these advances, the agrarian reform has barely made a dent in land ownership across Venezuela or in the country's dependence on food imports. According to government figures from last year, Venezuela imports 60 percent of its food, especially from Brazil, Canada, and the United States. Meanwhile, about 5 percent of the population owns 75 percent of the arable land, much of it idle. Steady increases in food prices, about 19 percent since January, are a major contributor to inflation, which is averaging 12.5 percent this year.

Many of the peasants the *Militant* interviewed said their struggle for land is not only to guarantee a decent living for their families but to achieve food self-sufficiency for Venezuela and at market prices affordable to all.

As Ana Julia Quintero put it, "Our goal is not only to survive but to produce food for the country."

As of today, more than 150,000 peasant families have won land titles, said Freddy Zapata of the government's National Land Institute, in an October 6 interview in Caracas. But most rural toilers, some 3 million, or 13 percent of the population of 24 million, remain landless.

Gains at El Charcote, nearby farms

In January 2005, Yánez sent National Guard troops to escort inspectors to El Charcote in order to determine whether the Vesteys had legal title to the ranch. He took the action after President Chávez issued a decree, titled "War on the Large Estates." The inspectors later determined that Agroflora could not prove legal title to about half the ranch and declared those 15,000 acres state property. Yánez promised land titles to the peasants tilling that part of the land and tried to evict the rest of them, succeeding temporarily.

"But we resisted and returned, and then the national government helped us," said peasant Pablo Villamizar. During the conflict one peasant was killed by the "flying squads of the landowners and three others 'disappeared,'" he said.

Peasants scored a similar victory at a 57,000-acre estate, about five miles north of El Charcote, owned by the Bultons, a Venezuelan capitalist family. After many unsuccessful attempts over seven years to occupy part of the idle estate, which cost them three casualties, 600 farm families have begun to till about 50 acres each, said Egidio Chávez, a peasant there.

"We are here to stay," Chávez, vice-president of the land committee that organized the occupation, told the *Militant* October 7. "Two months ago the government reached a deal with the Bultons, buying 32,000 acres of the land. We expect titles soon."

Militant photos by Argiris Malapanis

Left: Blanca Roja and Ferboss Quintero show small clinic staffed by Cuban doctors that peasants at El Charcote ranch established. Right: Mauro Escalona, who farms land nearby taken from Bulton estate, shows certificates for peasants graduating from sugar-cane growing course taught by Cuban agronomist Santos Gómez (background).

Peasants at El Charcote described more gains. Blanca Roja has taught reading and writing in her hut for a year and a half as part of Mission Robinson, the program that last year led to Venezuela being declared a country free of illiteracy. "We use the TV to show videos provided by Cuba," she said. Her TV set is powered by a small generator she bought for the classes, making her home the only one with electricity at El Charcote.

Doris Freite and Evaristo Marufo, in their 20s, are among the youngest peasants here. "We couldn't feed our two kids without help from the *Vuelvan Caras* mission," Marufo said, "which amounts to $150 for women and $75 for men per month." Vuelvan Caras is a government program that trains people for jobs, including farming. Those taking part must attend daily classes on agricultural techniques, and they get paid for lost time from work, Marufo said.

Freite said the problem is the attempt by program organizers to force participating families to join a government-administered cooperative, called "Zamoran Fund," or else leave the ranch after the classes end. "We don't agree with that," she said. "We've asked for more explanation. From what I understand, we would get a fixed monthly income at the minimum wage or less, and we would have no say in what crops we produce or how they are sold. That's what the English had."

Other peasants like Eduardo Hernández said similar attempts have proved disastrous in other states and insisted this will not happen at El Charcote. "We will get individual titles and form cooperatives on a voluntary basis," he said.

Cuban agronomists

"The symbol of our victory is the *casona* of the English company, which is now open to the public," said Ferboss Quintero, who is also a member of a five-person communal council, recently elected by an assembly of El Charcote's residents. This is a mansion, complete with computers, Internet service, and a swimming pool, on a hill overlooking the ranch. Agroflora used the house as a center for its policing operations. "Now it belongs to all of us."

The peasants' assembly decided to use part of the house to establish a small clinic, now open on Thursdays and staffed by a Cuban doctor who comes in from the nearest town. "We hope to have a resident doctor soon," Quintero said. About 20,000 Cuban doctors are volunteering in Venezuela as part of the *Barrio Adentro* (Into the Barrio) program that has brought quality health care, free of charge, to working people who previously had no access to medical services.

Quintero introduced *Militant* reporters to the 11 Cubans now living in the house. "Nine of us are agronomists and two are veterinarians," said Rosa Bejerano, herself an agronomist. "We came here two months ago. We have been reviewing the land and crops in order to provide technical advise to the peasants."

The Cuban personnel will soon be relocated, as most of the house will be used for an elementary school, said Alcida Córdoba, another member of El Charcote's communal council.

The number of Cuban agricultural specialists in the area has increased this year, said Freddy Díaz, president of the land committee at the nearby farm taken from the Bultons. He introduced *Militant* reporters to Santos Gómez, a Cuban agronomist who is teaching sugar-cane farming to peasants there.

"We've gained a few things," Ferboss Quintero said. "But we have long ways to go. We need titles, credit, machinery, electrification, transportation, and decent housing. We are more confident to fight for all that."

Ana Julia Quintero said peasants are now pushing to establish a warehouse at El Charcote where they could store crops and where representatives of Mercal, a government chain that sells food at half the market prices, could buy produce.

Setback at La Yauquera

Others in the area have faced setbacks. At La Yauquera, a 62,000-acre area near El Charcote that a court awarded to the peasants in 2004, the landowners have appealed and succeeded in tying up the peasants there in red tape.

"Last year we ended the occupation we started in 2004 after two people at our camp were killed by the landowners' hit men," said Jubir Yauca, a member of an indigenous family that has title to the land and decided to turn it over to peasant cooperatives. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 150 peasant leaders have been murdered by such goons since 2001.

"The government policy that there should be no new 'land invasions' has been used by some weak-kneed people among us to argue that we will be called invaders if we retake the farm that according to the court belongs to us," said Angel Sarmiento, a peasant involved in this struggle. "But we are not the invaders. The landowners took the Yaucas' land."

"The landowners count on us being worn out and abandoning the struggle," said Yauca. "But we won't give up."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

IOWA

Des Moines

Defend Immigrant Rights! Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers candidate for Secretary of Agriculture. Fri., Oct. 20. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Avenue. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Middle East, Capitalism's World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Sat., Oct. 21. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. *188 W. Wyoming Avenue. Tel.: (215) 455-2682.*

AUSTRALIA

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Fight Police Brutality. Prosecute the Palm Island Killer Cop. Speaker: Manuele Lasalo. Sat., Oct. 21, 6:00 p.m. *3/281-287 Beamish Street, Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698*

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Tribute and Rally in Support of Lynne Stewart. Tribute: Sun., Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m. *Riverside Church, Riverside Drive between 120 and 122 Streets.* On the day of her sentencing, rally in front of the courthouse. Mon., Oct. 16, 8:00-9:00 a.m. *Tom Paine Park (Foley Square), Centre and Worth streets. For more information: www.lynnestewart.org*

15,000 Goodyear tire workers strike

Continued from front page

benefit cuts and to close its plants in Tyler and in Gadsden, Alabama.

Goodyear, based in Akron, Ohio, ranks number three in world tire sales, after rival monopolies Bridgestone and Michelin. Last year the company, with more than 100 plants in 29 countries, had sales of $19.5 billion.

Roy Brown, a trucker with nine years supplying machine components, said, "We have to stand together. We can't give in just because the company wants to make even more money."

"It's not just us at stake here," added Larry Burns, another trucker. "We can't let them get away with this."

Striker William Brown said, "We are picketing around the clock, seven days a week. And we'll be here until we get the contract we need." He welcomed county workers joining the line in solidarity, waving at cars that honked in support of the pickets.

Other working people in the area have brought donations of food and sodas to the picket tent in front of the plant. "We need all the support we can get," said Brown.

Goodyear has said it is continuing production at nonunion plants in Lawton, Oklahoma, and Napanee, Ontario, and is using management personnel at union plants.

Anthony Dutrow contributed to this article.

❖

BY EDWIN FRUIT

LINCOLN, Nebraska—On an October 8 visit to the picket line at the Goodyear plant here, workers said they were resisting the company's effort to cut jobs, reduce cost-of-living adjustments, and impose a two-tier system for wages and retiree health-care benefits, with lower income for new employees.

Waneta Bales, who retired in 1999 and was among several retirees on the picket line, said she pays $50 a month for health insurance. The company wants to raise the premium for retirees to $300 a month.

The last strike against Goodyear, lasting three weeks, was in 1997. In 2003 the union made concessions in face of Goodyear's bankruptcy threat, said Gary Schaefer, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 286. Now, however, the workforce of 560 is 300 fewer than it was in 2004. Workers report that almost everyone on the production line is 40 years or older. Some 30 percent of the workforce is female.

Edwin Fruit is a packinghouse worker and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa. Joe Swanson contributed to this article.

❖

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—About 400 workers are on strike at Goodyear plants in Canada. Here, about 60 workers walked out at a plant that does truck tire retreads and warehouses tires of the major auto makers and chain stores such as Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire.

On the picket line here, United Steelworkers Local 13571 chairperson Mike Loftus said the bosses want to "take about Can$2.50 an hour off our wages [US$2.21], and they are after our cost-of-living clause." He said the company is also trying to "break the bargaining chain." The contract for all the North American plants expired July 22.

During a visit to the picket lines, about 15 strikers held up tractor trailers for about 25 minutes each, as specially hired company security guards watched.

Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Strikers Roy Brown and William Brown picket Goodyear tire plant in Tyler, Texas.

"They've brought in special drivers to empty the warehouse," said Loftus. In 2003 the unionists here organized a three-day "wildcat" strike and defeated company efforts to victimize a number of workers.

Weekly effort needed to bring fund home

BY PAUL PEDERSON

At the midway point in the eight-week campaign to raise $90,000 to help finance the socialist press, supporters of the *Militant* have collected $33,000. The challenge at this half-way mark is to turn around the pace of the collection, which is more than a week behind, so that the goal can be achieved by November 7.

The *Militant* spoke with local fund directors in some of the cities that are on target to find out how they have been accomplishing this.

"At the very beginning of the drive we asked supporters of the paper to pay as much of their pledge as they can. We always emphasize that the *Militant* needs the money now," said Anne Morrow, the fund director in San Francisco.

"Last week we got a contribution from an airline worker who has been a long-time reader of the paper," Morrow said. "He gave the money to a team that regularly sells the paper at the shift change along a road where airport workers go by as they come and go to work."

Consistent calling and follow-up with contributors and potential contributors is also key, these fund directors told us.

"It's really nothing flashy," Barbara Bowman, the Atlanta fund director, told us when asked how they've stayed ahead.

"We got an early start. We've done a couple rounds of calls to past contributors," she said. "When we meet with a subscriber about renewing their subscription, we've done a pretty good job of also telling them about the fund. Each week at the Militant Labor Forum we collect a little more."

By following these examples of steady work, we can collect $15,000 each week in the remaining four weeks of the campaign.

If you have pledged already, please pay as early and as frequently as you can. If you have not yet made a contribution, you can mail your donation directly to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or contact your nearest distributor listed in the directory on page 8. Please make checks payable to the *Militant*.

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive
Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 4 of 8

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SWEDEN	**37**	**29**	**78%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**100**	**72**	**72%**
Edinburgh	**45**	**37**	**82%**
UK Total	**145**	**109**	**75%**
NEW ZEALAND	**60**	**39**	**65%**
CANADA	**130**	**84**	**65%**
AUSTRALIA	**50**	**29**	**58%**
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	**130**	**88**	**68%**
Chicago	**100**	**56**	**56%**
Atlanta	**100**	**55**	**55%**
San Francisco	**75**	**39**	**52%**
Albany, NY	**20**	**10**	**50%**
Birmingham	115	55	48%
Miami	170	80	47%
Houston	100	47	47%
Washington, DC	105	49	47%
Des Moines	175	80	46%
Newark	150	68	45%
Boston	120	52	43%
New York	300	130	43%
Twin Cities	160	68	43%
Amherst, MA	10	4	40%
San Diego, CA	6	2	33%
Seattle	80	26	33%
Los Angeles	145	44	30%
Detroit	10	3	30%
Pittsburgh	60	17	28%
Tampa, FL	10	1	10%
U.S. Total	2,141	974	45%
ICELAND	18	7	39%
OTHER		1	
Int'l totals	**2,581**	**1,272**	**49%**
Should be	**2,600**	**1,300**	**50%**

* increased quota

No to U.S. war drive: sell subs!

Continued from front page

used to rationalize this aspect of U.S. imperialism's "long war."

Getting this issue around can also help build solidarity with the workers striking Goodyear who face the same enemy as the people of Korea.

Outreach can include stepped-up sales of the *Militant* in the Black community, Asian and Asian-American neighborhoods, on the job, at plant gates and picket lines, on campuses, and at political meetings. This kind of work over the next 10 days will help change gears in the *Militant*'s subscription drive, which is now slightly behind schedule.

Here are a few examples of effective work along these lines:

"We sold four subs at two different locations in Philadelphia's Black community," John Studer, a *Militant* supporter from that city, wrote October 9. "We signed up another three new readers in Chester, Pennsylvania, where there was a high school walkout last week to protest lack of teachers, books, and adequate class space."

Supporters of the paper from Georgia and Alabama sold 19 subscriptions at an October 7 protest in Atlanta of 4,000 people demanding legalization for immigrants. "We got a great response to the paper's support for unionizing all workers, U.S.- and foreign-born," reported Lisa Potash, a textile worker in Atlanta. Potash said that among those selling subscriptions at the action was a garment worker who was first introduced to the *Militant* by her co-workers on the job a few months ago.

"We sold a subscription to one of the leaders of the campus group Fuerza Latina," reported Ben Joyce, a student at State University of New York in Albany. "She's been picking up copies every week. She said she likes the *Militant* because she doesn't have to skim it for what she wants to read; she likes everything in it."

"Last week we sold two subscriptions to co-workers, one in a meat-packing and another in a garment plant, who had picked up copies from supporters of the paper at the plant gates," said Angel Lariscy, a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE Local 169 in Newark, New Jersey. "Another meat packer renewed his subscription when we visited him at home."

Join the effort! If you don't already receive a bundle you can order one by calling the *Militant* (see contact information on p. 2) or distributors near you (see directory on p. 8).

Sincerely,
Argiris Malapanis, Editor

$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
Sept. 9 –Nov. 7 ♦ Week 4 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
CANADA	3,500	1,665	48%
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	1,187	47%
AUSTRALIA	1,200	510	43%
FRANCE	250	100	40%
ICELAND	450	166	37%
UNITED STATES			
Boston	**3,500**	**1,925**	**55%**
San Francisco	**8,500**	**4,541**	**53%**
Miami	**2,500**	**1,305**	**52%**
Atlanta	**5,500**	**2,848**	**52%**
Des Moines	2,200	967	44%
New York	13,000	4,786	37%
Houston	3,200	1,160	36%
Philadelphia	3,500	1,225	35%
Seattle	7,000	2,415	35%
Newark	3,500	1,060	30%
Twin Cities	4,800	1,412	29%
Birmingham	3,500	860	25%
Chicago	5,000	1,165	23%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	648	23%
Los Angeles	8,200	1,840	22%
Pittsburgh	4,200	607	14%
Albany	120	0	0%
Amherst	60	0	0%
Detroit	1,200	0	0%
San Diego	50	0	0%
OTHER		500	
U.S. total	82,330	29,263	36%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh		500	60
London	1,300	50	4%
UK total	1,800	110	6%
SWEDEN	500	0	0%
Intl'l totals	**92,530**	**33,001**	**37%**
Goal/Should be	**90,000**	**45,000**	**50%**

ON THE PICKET LINE

Greece: elementary school teachers on strike for pay raise

ATHENS, Greece—Elementary school teachers, who have been on strike since September 18, held rallies in cities around the country October 5. In Athens, some 50,000 strikers and supporters marched for several hours, according to organizers. They have won support from the civil servants union (ADEDY) and Greece's labor federation GSEE. Nationwide and in individual schools, parents' associations have passed resolutions supporting the strikers.

Teachers are demanding a raise in their starting salary to 1,400 euros a month (1 euro = US$1.26) and increased funding for education to 5 percent of the gross national product. Currently elementary school teachers start out at 950 euros a month. One-third of teachers have to work a second job.

"We are fighting for an increase in education funding so the schools can properly operate," stated Afroditi Brata, who teaches in the Korydallos area of Athens. "Things are going from bad to worse. We lack basic things in my school: computers, projectors, a library."

—Natasha Terlexis

Hotel workers in Los Angeles march for union representation

LOS ANGELES—More than 2,000 hotel workers and their supporters marched down Century Boulevard outside the Los Angeles International Airport September 28. The action was called by UNITE HERE and immigrant rights organizations to support the fight of airport hotel workers to win union representation and to demand legalization for all immigrants. Marchers included workers from hotels throughout Los Angeles, students from nearby Loyola Marymount University, and day laborers. About 300 people were arrested in sit-down protests in front of the Westin and Hilton hotels, which have refused to sign initial contracts with UNITE HERE.

Militant/Natasha Terlexis

March in support of striking teachers in Athens, Greece, October 5. Banner reads: "On the 18th we begin our lesson with letter 'A':—Strike, Struggle, Dignity, Solidarity."

"We believe in the fight of the unions," said day labor organizer Omar Leon. "When workers are fighting for a contract we don't take those jobs." Thelma Juarez came with co-workers from the Rennassiance hotel in Hollywood, where the contract expired a year ago. "We came to help the Hilton workers get a raise and benefits," she said. They are also fighting at their workplace to lower the workload for housekeepers from 14 rooms a day to 11 and demanding a pay raise.

—Naomi Craine

2,000 in Carpentersville, Illinois, protest anti-immigrant ordinance

Continued from front page

lect property taxes and ambulance bills, there is overcrowding, an increase in crime and gang activity."

Laura Ornelas, an employee at the local school district who came to oppose the ordinance, told the *Chicago Tribune*, "They say we are criminals, but we're not. We're here to support our community and our friends and relatives."

The Mexican Civic and Cultural Organization of Elgin, a nearby town, organized the rally. Over the previous week opponents of the ordinance publicized the action by passing out leaflets, going to churches, and sending press releases.

"We need to say 'Enough!'" said Alfredo Nieto, an activist from the organization, speaking to those gathered outside who could not get into the board meeting. "We are not asking for charity, we are demanding the rights we deserve."

The Village Board decided to postpone a decision on the measure for two weeks, and said they will rent a bigger place for that meeting. The board administrator suggested that they might do it outside the town. Rally organizers urged demonstrators to mobilize again for the next meeting.

Some 120 cops in riot gear walked through the area and assembled across the street from the crowd as people started to leave.

In face of the working-class mobilization, supporters of the ultrarightist Minutemen canceled an October 8 meeting here featuring Daniel Sheehy, author of *Fighting Immigration Anarchy: American Patriots Battle to Save the Nation*. Factory owner Jack Roeser, president of a local rightist outfit offering its headquarters as the venue, said they had pulled out because "there is way too much pressure on people with this."

For further reading

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

Building the kind of party the working class needs to prepare for coming class battles. **$23**

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

October 23, 1981

WASHINGTON—A major debate has opened up in the National Organization for Women (NOW) over the program, strategy, and future of the women's liberation movement. The main lines of the debate emerged here at NOW's national conference, where top NOW leaders, over the angry objections of may delegates, projected deeper involvement in the Democratic and Republican parties and increased support for the imperialist foreign policy of the United States.

The October 9–12 conference drew some 2,000 women. Convinced that as things now stand the ERA will be defeated, many delegates came looking for a major discussion on what is happening to the ERA and other women's rights issues, what is happening in this country as a whole, and what can be done to reverse the reactionary attacks by the government.

October 22, 1956

Tallahassee's mass trial on Oct. 17 marks the climax of desperate attempts by city officials to smash the heroic bus boycott by 14,400 freedom fighters. This massive struggle was touched off when two Negro co-eds of Florida A&M University were arrested for sitting in the "white" section of a bus on May 26.

Among the 22 who will face the bar of white-supremacist "justice" will be the entire leadership of the Inter-Civic Council set up to direct the protest, as well as operators of service stations and drivers working with the car pool. The leaders were arrested Oct. 4 for operating "an illegal transportation system." The Council was also indicted on this count. At the same time, records of service stations said to be supplying the car pool have been subpoenaed. Officers of the Council were ordered to bring all records dealing with their organization to court.

October 31, 1931

After four months of public hearings and the presentation of bales of evidence by railroad men, shippers, and bankers, the application of the railroads for a general 15% rate increase has been denied, and instead an increase in certain lines permitted, averaging 3 to 4% but subject to the condition that the financially strong roads turn over the profits from the rate increase to the financially weak ones (cries of "Socialism!" from the Right).

The *Railroad Age* says to this, "However confusing it may be in other respects, one thing that the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the 15% rate advance case has made clear and certain is that railway wages must be reduced as soon as practicable. The Commission could not have made this more inevitable if it had been deciding a wage case instead of a rate case."

Washington demands 'enforceable' sanctions against north Korea

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

October 11—Washington has pushed to intensify sanctions and other attacks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since the north Korean government announced October 8 that it had conducted a nuclear weapons test.

The U.S. government, which already maintains economic sanctions against the DPRK, has proposed a United Nations Security Council resolution empowering member states to board ships and inspect all imports to or exports from that country, freeze all assets claimed to be connected with its nuclear program, and impose a trade ban on all commodities it defines as military and luxury goods.

U.S. officials want the resolution to fall under Section VII of the UN Charter, which authorizes the Security Council to "enforce" sanctions by breaking diplomatic ties or sponsoring military action if the targeted government does not comply with its demands.

"We're talking about really making it hurt," U.S. assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill said October 10. "We're not going to accept that North Korea…is going to join the nuclear club." Last week Hill said that north Korea "can have a future or it can have these weapons. It cannot have both."

U.S. president George Bush issued a statement branding north Korea as "provocative," and warning that if Pyongyang were deemed to have transferred nuclear materials to other countries, Washington would treat it as a "grave threat to the United States."

Democratic Party politicians seized on the nuclear test to criticize the Bush administration for not being tough enough in its hostile actions against north Korea.

"What it tells you is that we started at the wrong end of the 'axis of evil,'" former Democratic senator Sam Nunn told the *New York Times*. "We started with the least dangerous of the countries, Iraq… and now we have to deal with that."

On October 9 Sen. Hillary Clinton condemned the White House's "failure to deal with the threat posed by North Korea" and called for "the strongest possible action from the entire international community" against "this rogue nation."

The following day the editors of the *New York Times* complained that the Bush administration's proposed sanctions and cargo inspections "won't be enough to quickly change Pyongyang's mind." They instead called for "starting with a Security Council–ordered ban on all trade, until the North agrees to stop expanding its arsenal."

On October 11 the Japanese government, which tightened sanctions against the DPRK last month, ordered a total ban on north Korean imports and barred the entry of any ships from that country. It also banned most north Koreans from entering Japan. North Korea exported $133 million in goods to Japan last year.

Beijing joins call for sanctions

The Chinese government urged the Security Council to impose "punitive action" against Pyongyang, although it opposed interdicting shipments.

Beijing is part of six-party talks aimed at pressuring Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programs. The talks, which also involve Washington, Tokyo, Seoul, and Moscow, have been stalled since November 2005, when Washington imposed new economic sanctions against the DPRK. The north Korean government has repeatedly stated it will not participate in the talks as long as the imperialist sanctions remain in effect.

"The U.S. extreme threat of nuclear war and sanctions and pressure compel the DPRK to conduct a nuclear test…as a corresponding measure for defense," said north Korea's Foreign Ministry in an October 3 statement explaining the decision to conduct the test.

The north Korean government also noted that it "will make positive efforts to denuclearize the peninsula." The statement added that "the ultimate goal of the DPRK is not a 'denuclearization' to be followed by its unilateral disarmament but one aimed at…removing the very source of all nuclear threats from the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity," referring to the U.S. military presence there.

Washington keeps nearly 30,000 troops on the Korean peninsula, part of maintaining the division of Korea it imposed after being fought to a stalemate in the 1950–53 Korean War. While the Pentagon officially claims to have withdrawn all of its nuclear weapons from south Korea in 1991, it continues to station nuclear-armed warships in the surrounding waters.

Among the armaments Washington has deployed in the Pacific are non-strategic air-delivered bombs and sea-launched ballistic missiles on Trident class submarines, which provide "a unique very short notice (12–13 minutes) strike capability against time-critical targets in North Korea," according to the Nuclear Information Project of the Federation of American Scientists.

Since 2003, the U.S. and Japanese governments have collaborated as part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), asserting their right to stop, board, and confiscate the cargo of any ship they claim is carrying "suspect" cargo. Several north Korean ships have been boarded and inspected as a result of this U.S.-led initiative, which legalizes piracy on the part of over 60 signatory governments.

Washington and Tokyo have recently expanded their military cooperation toward establishing nuclear first-strike capacity against their adversaries in Asia. Tokyo, which reportedly has the technology to develop a nuclear arsenal within six months, is believed to have a stockpile of enough separated plutonium for 9,000 nuclear weapons.

Washington, the only government to ever have used nuclear weapons, has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world with some 10,000 warheads, 5,735 of which are classified as active or operational. *Forbes* reports that north Korea "is believed to have enough radioactive material for about a half-dozen bombs."

In late June, Washington and Tokyo agreed to jointly produce antiballistic missiles, and to deploy Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles on U.S. bases in Japan, where some 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed. Tokyo also signed an agreement to produce PAC-3 missiles to deploy on its own bases.

The Japanese government is using the Korean nuclear test to wave the banner of "national security" and push forward its plans to remove constitutional restrictions on the use of its military force abroad, imposed as a result of its defeat in World War II.

"A nuclear test by Pyongyang might lead to the last gasp of Japanese pacifism," noted an October 9 editorial in *Investor's Business Daily*. "The transformation of Japan from Asia's Switzerland to Asia's Britain—a strategic partner with teeth—is under way."

Reuters/Kim Kyung-Hoon

Protest in Seoul, south Korea, August 21 against the Ulchi Focus Lens military exercises involving U.S. and south Korean troops simulating war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The banner reads, "Stop the war exercise to attack north Korea!"

Scotland garment workers strike for wage increase

BY PETER CLIFFORD

EDINBURGH, Scotland—Some 110 striking knitwear workers have stepped up their fight here for a pay raise against Mackinnon Mills at Coatbridge, near Glasgow. On September 28 they conducted a one-day strike, and now they are striking two days each week, with all the members of the Community trade union. They are organized into a 24-hour picket.

After having made concessions year after year, "Enough is enough" strikers explained in a leaflet they are distributing at the picket line to passing motorists and people coming to the company's large retail store, an adjunct to the plant.

"Most people see our picket and turn away," said striker Cheryl Clark. She noted that the retail store bosses had put up a large "We Are Open" sign to little effect. Besides trying to limit the effect of their pickets, the managers' threats are having little impact on the effectiveness of the strike.

"We've not stood up to them for years," said Alison McCaughie, who along with nine other workers helps lead a strike committee. "We've had a union for a long time, but there was a happy-family, 'don't rock the boat' attitude," striker Jo McLean added. "Now we're going to make a stand."

"For four of the last 10 years we've had no wage raise at all. We've lost almost 20 percent of our wages over the past decade," said shop steward John Donnelly, who works as a knitting machine operator. The majority of the workers are sewing machine operators, mostly women.

McCaughie explained that they work on a piece-rate basis. For much of the week they work hard to earn above the government-set minimum wage of £5.35 hour (£1=US$1.87). Many earn just £170 a week. Male knitting machine operators who work shifts receive about £220 a week.

Donnelly and others were particularly incensed that Edinburgh Woollen Mills, the owners of Mackinnon Mills, made nearly £24 million in profits over the last year. Workers at Mackinnon produce knitwear for the parent company's 300 shops across the United Kingdom. The company employs 3,000 workers.

The retail workers have received a 2.5 percent wage increase, but manufacturing workers at Mackinnon, as well as workers at a nonunion plant in Selkirk, Scotland, have been denied a raise. The company claims they are running at a loss.

McCaughie said the strike committee is planning to organize several carloads of workers to protest at the company's headquarters in Langholme, Scotland.

Militant/Peter Clifford

Members of the Community trade union picket Mackinnon Mills plant in Edinburgh during September 28 one-day strike, part of their ongoing fight to win a wage increase.

Socialist candidates in California protest U.S. threats against N. Korea

Continued from front page
had taken part in the May 1 demonstration for the legalization of all immigrants liked the fact that our campaign connects the need to organize and use our unions with the fight for the legalization of all undocumented immigrants," Craine said.

She noted that this was a polarized discussion. Another worker who was Latina, for example, voiced opposition to legalization, arguing that immigrants made things harder for her kids.

One of the signers of the petition in that area said it was important to draw Blacks into the fight to legalize immigrants because of the activities of the rightist Minutemen, who are trying to recruit some African-Americans to their thuggish, anti-immigrant actions.

"Yes, this is not just an immigrant issue," Craine said. "The big majority in the huge pro-legalization marches this year have been workers. Their actions pose the need to unionize all workers as a life-and-death question for the labor movement."

At the campaign forum Michael Ortega, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 35th District, addressed the health-care crisis facing working people. "Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center has been the target of cutbacks and is back on the chopping block. This hospital, in a Black and Latino community, should not be closed," he said.

"What is needed is not simply an increase in funding but the complete socialization of the medical system," Ortega said. "As long as the system of profit exists, human beings in need of health care will be treated as commodities."

In Cuba, where workers and farmers have taken political power and made a socialist revolution, Ortega pointed out, "You can see what the revolution has accomplished. This includes some of the lowest infant mortality rates of any country, a focus on preventive medicine, doctors who make house calls," and the sending of volunteer doctors to other countries.

Also speaking were SWP candidates James Harris for governor of California, Joel Britton for San Francisco Board of Education, David Argüello for U.S. Congress in the 51st District, and Lea Sherman for U.S. Senate.

On September 23, Argüello and other socialist campaigners took part in a countermobilization of 200 immigrant rights supporters in National City against a protest by the Minutemen.

The socialists collected signatures to win official write-in status for Argüello's campaign. Enrique Morones, founder of the immigrant rights group Border Angels, invited Argüello to speak on his Spanish-language radio program.

Militant/Naomi Craine

Socialist Workers congressional candidate Michael Ortega petitions in Los Angeles to win write-in status on ballot for Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in 34th District.

Communist League candidate backs Toronto transit workers

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—"Workers need unions to resist the employers' offensive. My campaign supports the Toronto transit workers' fight to defend their contract and the 25,000 Loblaws supermarket workers in their fight against concessions demands," said Joseph Young to a crowd of 400 at a mayoral candidates' forum here October 4. Young is the Communist League's candidate for mayor of Toronto. A meat packer, he is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

In his 30-second introductory remarks, as allotted to each of the 27 candidates, Young said, "I call for the immediate withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan. This imperialist war is against the interests of all working people."

The Toronto city elections take place November 13. There are 38 candidates for mayor in an election that is officially "non-partisan," without declared political affiliation by the leading capitalist candidates.

In addition to Young, the Communist League is running for councillor Beverly Bernardo in Ward 14 and Michel Dugré in Ward 12. Both are garment workers.

Among those at the forum were Mayor David Miller, a self-proclaimed friend of labor and member of the New Democratic Party who is supported by the Toronto-area Labor Council, and his main opponent, city council member Jane Pitfield.

While Young received applause for his comments on Afghanistan, some in the audience reacted negatively when he defended a one-day "wildcat" strike carried out last May by the transit workers as "a courageous action in defense of their union contract and the public transit system."

Young's position on expanded public transit was reported in the daily *National Post*, and his stance on Afghanistan was reported by CBC television news.

Later in the week Young and his supporters took the Communist League campaign to the picket line of striking Goodyear Tire workers, who are members of the United Steelworkers union. The strikers they spoke with expressed appreciation for his solidarity. "I am encouraging my co-workers and other workers to get down to your picket line," Young told them.

Meeting held in Washington for freedom of Cuban Five

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Some 70 people attended a meeting here October 7 to demand freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries who have been unjustly held in U.S. prisons since 1998. The panel of speakers was part of a series of events marking the eighth anniversary of their arrest. It also marked the 30th anniversary of the bombing of a Cuban airliner by CIA-sponsored counterrevolutionaries, which killed all 73 passengers.

Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, René González, Fernando González, and Gerardo Hernández are serving draconian sentences on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage against the U.S. government and other trumped-up charges. In the case of Hernández this includes "conspiracy to commit murder." The five Cubans were in Florida gathering information on U.S.-backed rightist groups that have carried out deadly attacks against Cuba.

The featured speaker was Salim Lamrani, editor of *Superpower Principles: U.S. Terrorism Against Cuba*, a book on the Cuban Five and Washington's hostile policies against the Cuban Revolution. Lamrani, a Paris university researcher, has been touring the United States to speak about the book. He presented the case for the release of the five and condemned Washington's refusal to meet Venezuela's request for extradition of Luis Posada Carriles, a mastermind of the 1976 bombing of the Cuban airliner.

Lamrani was joined on a panel by Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana; Piero Gleijeses, of Johns Hopkins University; and Saul Landau, author of *Assassination on Embassy Row*, a book on the 1976 assassination of former Chilean official Orlando Letelier by a hit squad that included Cuban-American rightists.

"The embargo [against Cuba] and the imprisonment of the Cuban Five are motivated by Washington's desire for revenge" against revolutionary Cuba, Gleijeses said. Gleijeses is the author of *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959–1976*. The book is an account of Cuba's internationalist policy in Africa in support of anti-imperialist struggles from Algeria's fight against French colonial rule to the aid given by Cuban troops in driving back invasions of Angola by the apartheid regime in South Africa.

"Cuba dealt Washington an enormous humiliation in Angola," said Gleijeses, summing up the impact throughout southern Africa of the defeat of South African troops at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1987.

Three of the Cuban Five, René González, Fernando González, and Gerardo Hernández, served as volunteer combatants in Angola in the late 1980s.

Kazakhstan miners return to work; win wage raise, promise of better conditions

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Coal miners in Kazakhstan have returned to work after a 10-day strike that involved some 24,000 miners. The Dutch-based steel giant Mittal, which owns the eight mines that were struck, agreed to double the miners' wages and promised to upgrade equipment in the mines.

The strike began September 25, five days after a gas explosion killed 41 miners at Mittal's Lenin mine. Miners say the company has done little to improve safety conditions in the 11 years since it bought the giant Karmet complex from the government of Kazakhstan. The complex includes the country's largest metal factory and the extensive coal and iron ore mines that feed it and employs some 55,000 workers.

Trade union leader Vyacheslav Sidorov told the press that coal miners returned to work October 5 at all eight of the struck mines. But he added that 300 workers continued to picket the main administrative building in the coal mining town of Shakhtinsk for another day to press for more demands.

Miners' wages will increase under the new contract from an average of $350 to around $700 a month, according to press reports. Steel and other metalworkers employed at the same complex, who were threatening to join the strike, have reportedly agreed to a 20 percent increase. They currently earn a monthly average of $300.

For further reading

Coal Miners on Strike

by Nancy Cole and Andy Rose

Lessons from the 111-day 1977–78 coal strike led by the United Mine Workers of America, the fight for health benefits, and compensation for black lung victims. **$5.00**

The Russian question: decisive for revolutionists

Below is an excerpt from The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. It records the struggle to build a party of communist workers in face of a challenge by a petty-bourgeois section of the Socialist Workers Party, which under the pressures of the outbreak of World War II and the 1939 Stalin-Hitler pact began to reject the theoretical foundations, political principles, and organizational methods of the party. The author, James P. Cannon, was a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States and the first national secretary of the SWP.* *Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Corbis

Joseph Stalin (second from left), Soviet premier at the time, with German and Russian foreign ministers at signing of the Hitler-Stalin nonaggression pact on Aug. 23, 1939.

BY JAMES P. CANNON

The Russian question is with us once again, as it has been at every critical turning point of the international labor movement since November 7, 1917. And there is nothing strange in that. The Russian question is no literary exercise to be taken up or cast aside according to the mood of the moment. The Russian question has been and remains the question of the revolution. The Russian Bolsheviks on November 7, 1917, once and for all, took the question of the workers' revolution out of the realm of abstraction and gave it flesh and blood reality.

It was said once of a book—I think it was Whitman's "Leaves of Grass"—"who touches this book, touches a man." In the same sense it can also be said, "Who touches the Russian question, touches a revolution." Therefore, be serious about it. Don't play with it.

The October revolution put socialism on the order of the day throughout the world. It revived and shaped and developed the revolutionary labor movement of the world out of the bloody chaos of the war. The Russian revolution showed in practice, by example, how the workers' revolution is to be made. It revealed in life the role of the party. It showed in life what kind of a party the workers must have. By its victory, and its reorganization of the social system, the Russian revolution has proved for all time the superiority of nationalized property and planned economy over capitalist private property, and planless competition and anarchy in production.

The question of the Russian revolution—and the Soviet state which is its creation—has drawn a sharp dividing line through the labor movement of all countries for 22 years. The attitude taken toward the Soviet Union throughout all these years has been the decisive criterion separating the genuine revolutionary tendency from all shades and degrees of waverers, backsliders and capitulators to the pressure of the bourgeois world—the Mensheviks, Social Democrats, Anarchists and Syndicalists, Centrists, Stalinists.

The main source of division in our own ranks for the past ten years, since the Fourth Internationalist tendency took organized form on the international field, has been the Russian question. Our tendency, being a genuine, that is, orthodox, Marxist tendency from A to Z, has always proceeded on the Russian question from theoretical premises to political conclusions for action. Of course, it is only when political conclusions are drawn out to the end that differences on the Russian question reach an unbearable acuteness and permit no ambiguity or compromise. Conclusions on the Russian question lead directly to positions on such issues as war and revolution, defense and defeatism. Such issues, by their very nature, admit no unclarity, no compromise, because it is a matter of taking sides! One must be on one side or another in war and revolution….

Throughout all this long period of Soviet degeneration since the death of Lenin, the Fourth Internationalists, analyzing the new phenomenon of a degenerating workers' state at every turn, striving to comprehend its complications and contradictions, to recognize and defend all the progressive features of the contradictory processes and to reject the reactionary—during all this long time we have been beset at every new turn of events by the impatient demands of "radicals" to simplify the question. Thrown off balance by the crimes and betrayals of Stalin, they lost sight of the new system of economy which Stalin had not destroyed and could not destroy.

We always firmly rejected these premature announcements that everything was lost and that we must begin all over again. At each stage of development, at each new revelation of Stalinist infamy and treachery, some group or other broke away from the Fourth International because of its "conservatism" on the Russian question. It would be interesting, if we had the time, to call the roll of these groupings which one after another left our ranks to pursue an ostensibly more "revolutionary" policy on the Russian question. Did they develop an activity more militant, more revolutionary, than ours? Did they succeed in creating a new movement and in attracting newly awakened workers and those breaking from Stalinism? In no case.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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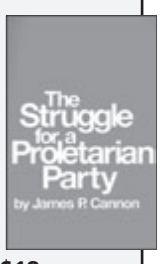

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STATEMENT BY SWP NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Halt U.S.-led war threats! No sanctions!

Continued from page 2

tened—the north and set it ablaze through bombardment. By 1953, however, the U.S.-led invaders had been pushed back to Korea's 38th parallel by the combined forces of Korean and Chinese troops, dealing U.S. imperialism its first military defeat in history.

Ever since then Washington has deployed tens of thousands of U.S. troops and armaments on south Korean soil. It has carried out annual "war games" with the capitalist regime in Seoul. It has imposed imperialist diplomatic isolation on the DPRK. It has wielded economic and currency sanctions—the inhuman weapons of food, fuel, and energy—to starve and freeze the toilers in the north. And it has encouraged the strategic rearmament of Japan.

All these measures and others are a constant reminder of U.S. finance capital's unremitting military threats against Korean workers and farmers in both halves of that partitioned country. To this day Washington maintains a massive conventional and strategic nuclear arsenal in and around the Korean peninsula.

Using Moscow, Beijing muscle

It is in face of this forcible division of Korea by imperialism, and its unrelenting economic and military pressure, that the DPRK has asserted the right to take the military steps it deems necessary to defend itself. The aim of Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul in the so-called six-party "negotiations" in recent years has been to bring to bear the muscle of Moscow and especially Beijing—the DPRK's largest source of trade and economic aid—to compel Pyongyang to unilaterally abandon its nuclear research, enrichment, and testing programs while the U.S. atomic arsenal, the world's largest, remains intact. And while plans for nuclear-powered energy spread throughout the world, from Japan and India to Finland, Russia, and the United States itself.

In response to the DPRK's announcement October 8 that it had carried out a nuclear weapons test, the Chinese government's ambassador to the United Nations agreed that "there have to be punitive actions" against north Korea. Both Beijing and Moscow have already made clear they will support stiffer sanctions. It remains to be seen, however, whether this treachery will yet go so far as to bow to Washington's demand that such punishment of the Korean people also fall under Chapter VII of the United Nations charter, which makes mandatory sanctions "legally" enforceable by imperialist-organized troops under UN banners. (These are the same blue banners that for more than half a century have flown over imperialist occupation forces in south Korea and the Demilitarized Zone, the DMZ.)

Reuters/Randy Rodríguez

Militia members take part in defense exercises held throughout Cuba in December 2004. "The Cuban people and their communist leadership continue to set a revolutionary internationalist example for toilers worldwide," says statement by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee.

A matter of sovereignty

As a simple matter of national sovereignty, working people in the United States and elsewhere have a fundamental class interest in supporting the DPRK's right to self-defense. At the same time, the Socialist Workers Party stands in solidarity with the DPRK's repeated calls for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula—and of the entire Pacific and Asia. We demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and armaments from Korean land and waters and the lifting of all economic sanctions.

The imperialist rulers attack with particular ferocity those who refuse to bow to their dictates. Just as they will not forget or forgive the defeat handed them by the Korean people more than half a century ago, they have also never forgiven the workers and farmers of Cuba for making the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

The Cuban people and their communist leadership continue to set a revolutionary internationalist example for toilers worldwide in linking the defense of their own sovereignty and socialist conquests at home to the advance of popular struggles in other countries. As president Fidel Castro explained—in a December 1988 speech honoring Cuban internationalist volunteers who had joined Angolan fighters in defeating apartheid South Africa's invading forces—"Whoever is incapable of fighting for others will never be capable of fighting for himself. And the heroism shown by our forces, by our people in other lands, faraway lands, must also serve to let the imperialists know what awaits them if one day they force us to fight on this land here."

In a more recent speech, in November 2005, Castro explained why Cuba depends for its revolutionary defense on the armed readiness and political consciousness of Cuban working people, not on chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. "We have never considered producing nuclear weapons, because we don't need them," the Cuban president explained. "Even if they were accessible, how much would they cost and what sense would it make producing a nuclear weapon with an enemy that has thousands of nuclear weapons?…

"We have a different type of nuclear weapon: it's our ideas," Castro said—Cuba's revolutionary ideas and living example. "We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power, and it is the magnitude of the justice for which we are struggling…. That is why we have never even considered producing them, nor have we ever considered seeking biological weapons. What for?"

The Cuban government has taken the proletarian political high ground—and thus the moral high ground—against the rapacious U.S. ruling families. It has issued the call for a nonnuclear Caribbean, exposing the reality that it is U.S. imperialism that poses a danger to the peoples of the Americas and to humanity as a whole.

Like Washington's unending bipartisan economic warfare and military pressure against Cuba, like its mounting threats against Iran, the escalating threats by the imperialist parties today against the DPRK are one front in what the U.S. rulers call a "long war." This decades-long conflict has only begun with their bloody aggression against Iraq and Afghanistan, and their open support of Tel Aviv's war against Lebanon.

In 1950 Socialist Workers Party national secretary James P. Cannon sent an open letter to Democratic U.S. president Harry Truman condemning Washington's brutal assault on the Korean people's struggle for national sovereignty and unification. SWP members at that time—in factories, on street corners, high school and college campuses, and in working-class districts across the country—championed the demand: "Withdraw all U.S. troops so the Korean people can have full freedom to work out their destiny in their own way."

To that demand, we add today: No to sanctions! No to piracy against north Korean ships! Remove all U.S. weapons from the Korean peninsula! Denuclearize the Pacific and Asia!

Korea is one!

Support Korean reunification!

Continued from front page

reunification, for a united Korea free of Washington's troops and its armaments, armaments destructive beyond imagination. We pledge our solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in face of today's escalating threats of expanded economic sanctions and acts of piracy against your freighters and cargo planes by the U.S. and Japanese imperialist governments and their allies.

The U.S. rulers, who wield the world's largest strategic nuclear arsenal, are once again trying to turn the victim into the criminal. Washington is the only government on earth ever to have used nuclear weapons, against the defenseless Japanese and Korean populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sixty-one years ago. Then, in 1950, as pointed out by the SWP's first national secretary, James P. Cannon, the Truman administration threatened "to repeat the atrocities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by using the atom bomb in Korea"—as U.S. warplanes unleashed nearly 650,000 tons of explosives to level Korean cities and scorch the countryside bare. To this day the U.S. government deploys more than 30,000 troops on Korean soil and maintains nuclear-armed warships and planes throughout the surrounding waters.

It is these capitalist rulers of the United States and their "willing" allies who present a threat of annihilation to the people of Korea, Asia, and the world. Singling out the DPRK as their common enemy, the U.S. and Japanese governments are strengthening "missile defense" cooperation to advance toward a nuclear first-strike capacity in the region. The U.S. rulers' unending aggressions against Korea are part of their arrogantly declared "long war"—from Iraq, to Afghanistan, and beyond—to try to reverse the growing disorder of the world capitalist system and tighten their bloody oppression and brutal exploitation of workers and farmers both at home and abroad. The U.S. government and its NATO allies promise Iran increasing economic strangulation and threaten military assault if it continues to enrich uranium for nuclear power needed for economic and social development. And Washington's own warheads target socialist Cuba 365 days a year, despite the Cuban government's repeated assertions, consistent with its revolutionary course, that it needs no nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and has no intention of ever developing them.

Working people and youth the world over, as we engage in struggles and look for ways to fight more effectively and win, develop a hunger for the true history of our class and its allies. The proud record of the Korean people in resisting imperialism is part of that record—from your struggle in the opening half of the twentieth century against Tokyo's degrading colonial rule, to handing Washington its first-ever military defeat in the Korean War.

On the occasion of the sixty-first anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists stand in solidarity with the DPRK and its right to defend Korea's national sovereignty. We support the DPRK's call for the denuclearization of the entire Korean peninsula and its surrounding air and waters.

We remember with pride our participation in Korea in the activities surrounding the 45th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in 1990—from Pyongyang to the DMZ. As we did then, we continue to speak for the historic interests of the working class in the United States in demanding of the two-party, anti-Korea coalition in Washington: No to sanctions against the DPRK by the U.S. government, other imperialist powers, or their pawn, the United Nations! No to acts of piracy against Korean ships and cargo planes! Withdraw all U.S. forces and U.S. arms from Korean soil and waters! Denuclearize the region!

Korea will be one!